

Working Group and Steering Committee Meeting Notes
April 26, 2006 – 3:00-5:00 PM
Miller Family Health Education Center

Introductions were made after Corrine Schneider and Susan Price made opening remarks. Kevin Cwayna introduced subcommittees and gave updates. Cwayna also spoke about two cities that are implementing plans to end homelessness: San Francisco and Minnesota. A plan was implemented two years ago in San Francisco and since then there has been a 30% decrease in the homeless population. Permanent housing has been accomplished for 900 chronically homeless individuals in the past year. In Minnesota, officials have recognized the huge expense of homelessness: evictions, services, prevention, etc...Through the new plan, the city saved 90% of costs for family to be evicted and experienced a 43% reduction in homelessness overall.

Panel discussion proceeded, directed by Corinne Schneider. The first speaker was Lari Sheehan, Assistant Administrative Officer, Service Integration Branch, LA County. Gave the total homeless population estimates at 82,291 according to the 2005 LA homeless census. This number excludes Long Beach, Pasadena, and Glendale, as they have their own programs and discussion of statistics. In the City of LA alone, there are 48,103 homeless. In cities other than LA (Long Beach, Glendale and Pasadena, there are about 26,764. In unincorporated areas there is a total of about 7,424 persons, creating an overall total of 88,345 persons experiencing homelessness. Sheehan stated that most controversy is over stabilization centers. Initially, five centers will be implemented and geographically dispersed. Then the plan would be to expand existing HUD and or LAHSA funded Regional Homeless Access Centers. There would be 40 short-term beds each: 30 on site and 10 at a community partner facility for residential drug and alcohol abuse treatment. There would be 24/7 operation and county staff teams from DPSS, DMH, and DHS. This facility would be used by law enforcement as a place to take homeless persons arrested for minor offenses related to their homelessness. It would also be a shelter for homeless persons discharged from County Jails and Hospitals. The purpose would be for a temporary shelter that would offer a triage of service needs, and connect with more permanent supportive housing. Stated that the homeless court is of a tremendous help as is PATH, which has helped people experiencing homelessness dismiss warrants.

The second speaker was Sylvia Romero, Homeless Coordinator of the Department of Social Services in Los Angeles County. She thanked LA County for inviting DPSS and proceeded to speak about benefits such as hotel vouchers that are provided to persons experiencing homelessness. She also spoke about a program that would pay up to \$2000 for past due rent and moving fees. In addition, up to \$405.00 can be given towards the purchase of a stove and a refrigerator. She spoke about various rental subsidy programs and the General Relief (GR) Program. GR contracts with 39 hotels and some shelters that provide GR beds. Explained demographics of Calworks and GR and elaborated about the target population and how to obtain services.

The third speaker was Rhelda Shabazz, Division Chief, Emancipation Services, Department of Children and Family Services, LA County. Shabazz spoke about the Chaffee foster care initiative and flexible funding as well as EPP (Emancipation Program Partnership), THP (Transitional Housing Program), THPP (Transitional Housing Placement Program) and ILP services (please see ilponline.org). On December 14, 1999 the John H. Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program amended part of the Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide the State with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help youth make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. For more information about this and other programs, please see the City website.

The fourth speaker was Dr. Karen S. Dalton, Director of Offender Programs and Services, Correctional Services Division, LA County Sheriff's Department. Dalton gave a brief overview of the Sheriff's Correctional Services Division – specifically regarding food and medical services for inmates and the inmate welfare fund. Stated that the definition of homelessness according to HUD creates certain limitations on who they can provide services to.

The fifth speaker was Yvonne Duke, Jail Administrator, Long Beach Police Department. She spoke about the revolving door of the jail. They are a type one facility and this also poses more challenges in providing services to homeless. Most homeless are without funds. Duke stated that there is a gap in services in housing inmates upon release and that, in a small effort to alleviate this problem, they have posted a list of phone numbers for service providers on the pay phones. One problem the facility faces to further complicate matters is understaffing. There is also no staff directly connected to providing services. One of her concerns is regarding all of the returning inmates and the revolving door. There is also the pressing challenge of the voluntary element that the individual needs in order to transcend their situation.

The sixth speaker was Miki Webber, Program Manager, Countywide AB 2034/ACT Programs, LA County Department of Mental Health. She spoke about the necessary human connection to people seeking services and the importance of forming a relationship. She spoke about the success of the Village and the focus on housing and employment that has yielded remarkable results. There are 1600-1700 clients receiving services. She spoke about the funds called "hamburger money" that allow assistance up to \$2,500 – their goal is to double this and offer funds up to \$5,000 for clients to buy furniture etc.

The last speaker was Viki Sparks, Supervisor of Social Services Department at St. Mary Medical Center. She stated that the most challenging person is a client who is alone and without family or friends and finding them housing outside of the hospital. This usually means that they use a shelter in lieu of any other services available. Another challenge is that most shelters only operate at night, so clients that need to be in bed/rest cannot stay in the shelter and are forced to get up and be out when they should be in bed and resting.

Corinne Schneider directed panel questions. The first question was for Lari Sheehan regarding the intention of the program; is it to move people out of Skid Row, including people from jails and hospitals? Discussion progressed and it was brought up that some people believe that DPSS dumps in Long Beach. Karen Dalton responded to this and stated that services available are what attract the population. DPSS does not necessarily place people in Long Beach, but that the population does tend to move in the direction where services are available. There is a connection between providing services and attracting clients. The meeting was over at 5 pm, but questions did progress and some were left unanswered for the time. These questions and the responses are below:

Remaining Questions for Panelists-Wednesday, April 26, 2006

1. What is the timing for implementation of the HPI – particularly the stabilization centers the expansion of the homeless centers, the prototype count?
The timing cannot be estimated for the stabilization centers as there is a lot of community outreach and consensus building that needs to be done just to find the appropriate sites. With regard to the Prototype Court, they are waiting for the enactment of legislation to assist with the funds. It may occur in FY 2006-07, but it not yet possible to provide a definite date.
2. Does the union Rescue Mission require its clients to pray or attend religious services before getting food, etc.?
The Union Rescue Mission does not require its clients to pray and/or attend religious services as a condition for receiving food, shelter, supportive services, health/dental services, legal assistance, clothing, etc. Clients have the option of joining the URM's Christian recovery programs (Women's' and Men's Second Step Programs) which provide intensive individualized case management. These programs are designed to last six months for women, and from three to twelve months for men. Participation in the various components of these programs, such as, spiritual activities, is mandatory.
3. How can Long Beach tap into the County Housing Fund?
Persons receiving mental health services, may simply access the Housing Coordinator in SPA 8 through their case manager. The Housing Coordinator will work side by side with the client to complete any necessary applications and will hand carry the applications through our homeless and housing department.
4. What housing types do your clients require short-term or long term? (SRO, multi-family or dorm)

Our CalWORKs families and General Relief participants are in need of permanent affordable housing with connected to intensive case management and supportive services. The availability of this type of housing would:
 1. Help prevent reoccurrences of homelessness

2. Open up emergency and transitional housing slots for homeless families and individuals with recent episode of homelessness who would eventually move to permanent housing.

5. To Karen Dalton:

Is anything being done to educate judges regarding the six-month probation period that impedes access to services?

This type of education can partially be provided by our existing mental health court program run by DMH. There are also ways to attend DA and PD trainings as well as memos to Judges to provide this information. I am sure my other other panelists will have other helpful suggestions. Miki Webber-DMH

6. To Miki:

Do you currently work with the multi-service center? If so what do you do and how do you plan to do more with the extra \$ coming your way? Do you know if other hospitals are working with the MSC? Maybe you can bring this committee to their attention.

Our department and our contractors have been ACTIVELY involved in the Multi-Service Center since the beginning. The Village is one of our contractors and we pay them to provide homeless outreach. Please refer to our plan submitted to the state for all of the relevant details to our MHSA (Prop 63) Plan.

Additionally, DMH SPA 8 has been vigilant and present in this process and has an active and successful housing consortium. Our hospitals attend our Service Area Planning meetings and I strongly encourage anyone who would like to get up to date on the innovative projects we are doing to assist the citizens of Long Beach to attend. You can contact Anthony Cooksie at 563.435.3037 for more information. If you would like to see our plan, please visit www.lacdmh.org, click Stakeholders. Miki Webber-DMH

7. To Yvonne Duke:

Why are Long Beach non-residents counted with Long Beach Homeless? How do we separate LB Homeless.

This information was not information that we had been requested to separate. As a result we had not made a distinction that would allow for us to capture the information separately. Hopefully we will be able to make data input changes that will allow us to separate this information when we request reports containing this information in the future.

8. To Yvonne Duke:

Disseminating info – Is that an opportunity for volunteers? Much like chaplain services, could community volunteers be on duty 24/7 to get info to inmates? (Think “candy strippers” for jails to be the info is disseminated)

This could be a volunteer opportunity, however we want to automate our approach to presenting this information and move away from having handout information in the jail. Handouts can still be available to anyone wanting them upon release.

Speaker Bios

Dr. Karen S. Dalton - Director of Offender Programs and Services, Correctional Services Division, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Karen is responsible for the development and implementation of all entities of inmate programs and industries throughout the jail system. This consists of programs at seven jail facilities housing nearly 18,000 inmates.

Karen earned her Doctor of Public Health degree from Loma Linda University focusing on addiction and women's health. Karen was responsible for the creation, recruitment, and implementation of perinatal substance abuse day treatment centers throughout San Bernardino County. While working for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Karen created a five-week substance abuse treatment program (CARE - Counseling, Assessment, Rehabilitation, and Education), which was proven to be successful through her doctoral dissertation.

Among her many accomplishments, Karen has been involved in Sheriff Baca's campaign to develop transitional housing for the county's homeless population. She is currently working on a fundraising campaign to assist in the development of a transitional housing center for homeless women and children. Karen was the Department liaison with POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) on an educational video project designed to teach patrol officers how to work effectively with the homeless.

Karen is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a Certified Jail Manager. She speaks throughout the country on issues that pertain to inmate education, rehabilitation, and reentry. She is also a published author on correctional education and public health.

Yvonne Duke - was appointed as the **Long Beach Police Department Jail Administrator** on September 30, 2004. She is the first civilian employee to hold this position.

Yvonne earned her Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University and an Associates Degree in Law Related Studies from Trident Technical College.

Yvonne began her career in corrections in 1981 working as a corrections officer for the New York State Department of Correctional Services. In 1993, she relocated to Charleston, South Carolina and accepted a position with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. Yvonne worked in the jail and quickly promoted to the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Administrative Lieutenant. In 2001 she was promoted to the

rank of Captain and became the first female Captain for this agency working in the jail.

Yvonne has served as an instructor in jail related topics for over twenty years. She is certified as an instructor trainer in Interpersonal Communications Skills, Standard First Aid and Fundamentals of Instructor Training. Yvonne has served as a consultant for the National Institute of Corrections and has conducted workshop presentations for the American Jail Association, South Carolina Jail Administrators Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and numerous jail facilities.

Sylvia M. Romero - Homeless Coordinator, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Sylvia Romero coordinates the Department's homeless activities and serves as liaison with public and private/nonprofit agencies in addressing homeless issues.

Sylvia is a graduate of Cal State Pomona Polytechnic University. She began her career with Los Angeles County in 1975. Her past assignments in DPSS include Eligibility Worker, Eligibility Quality Auditor, Welfare Fraud Investigator, Appeals Hearing Specialist, Supervising Appeals Hearing Specialist, Human Services Administrator I (HSA I) and HSA II.

She has worked on the development and implementation of several key initiatives, projects and programs, including the Bring L.A. Home Strategies to End Family Homelessness, Discharge Policies recommendations, GAIN Sanction Home Visit Outreach Pilot, Welfare Reform implementation, and the Long-Term Family Self-sufficiency (LTFSS) Plan.

Prior to her current position, Sylvia was responsible for the management and administration of GAIN Program Section I, including 60 staff and out-stationed GAIN Line Operations in Burbank, East/West Valley and Antelope Valley. Her assignments have included coordination of collaborative efforts with the advocate community and public/private partnering agencies with the goal of developing and/or improving programs/services.

Originally from Sonora, Mexico, Sylvia has been married to Ruben Romero since 1971 and is blessed with two daughters, Yvette and Michelle and treasures the pride and joy of her life: three grandchildren, Derek, Sydney and Dylan Liu.

Rhelda R. Shabazz - Emancipation Services Division Chief for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Ms. Shabazz delivers Emancipation Services in partnership with the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the Emancipation Program Partnership. Through these collaborations services are provided annually to 13,000 current and former foster youth.

Ms. Shabazz has worked for DCFS for 22 years in a variety of positions. She began her DCFS career as a Children's Social Worker. She held several positions including:

- A court officer
- Supervising Children's Social Worker
- Assistant Regional Administrator
- Family Preservation Program Manager

Ms. Shabazz has also worked as the Interim Division Chief of Community Based Support Services, which included oversight of the Family Support, Victims of Crime, Child Support and Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Programs.

Lari Sheehan - Assistant Administrative Officer, Service Integration Branch, Chief Administrative Office, Los Angeles County.

Lari has been employed in the public sector for over 36 years. After graduation from UCLA in 1968, Lari spent five years in Sacramento, four of them as the Assistant Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Local Government.

In late 1973, Lari left the Legislature to take a job as Executive Officer of the Marin County Local Agency Formation Commission. In 1976, she was hired by the County of San Diego as a Deputy Director in the Planning Department. With the exception of a 15-month leave to work for the City of San Diego, Lari worked for the County of San Diego through November 1998. The last 12 years of her employment with San Diego County were in the capacity of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for municipal services.

She joined the County of Los Angeles in February 1999 and served as Assistant Administrative Officer for Unincorporated Area Services and Special Projects until April of 2004 when she assumed leadership responsibility for the Services Integration Branch of the CAO's office.

Viki Sparks - Supervisor, Social Services Department, St. Mary Medical Center. Viki has a long history of working with homeless people including developing the first residential program for people who were homeless, had AIDS and were active drug users in San Francisco. Viki operated the largest homeless shelter in Denver with specialized services for vets, families, hospital discharges, mental health, and substance abuse issues.

Miki Webber - Program Manager for Adult Systems of Care, Countywide AB2034/ACT Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. These programs serve over 3500 consumers. Miki is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Registered Nurse and been active in the development and future implementation of Full Service Partnerships, which are funded by the Mental Health Services Act.